cations cleared and rejected is shown as under (Statewise) :

State	Total No. of appl. recd.	LOT issued	Applications rejected/otherwise disposed of	Under process
(Figures in bracket denote the share of Eastern U.P. and North Bihar respectively)				
U.P.	891 (80)	319 (31)	437 (37)	135 (12)
Bihar	116 (18)	45 (5)	64 (12)	77 (1)

Opening of new Post Offices, Telegraph Offices and Public Call Offices in U.P. and Bihar

20. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of post offices, telegraph offices and public call offices likely to be opened in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and the staff proposed to be appointed on this account during the current financial year; and

(b) what is the total amount of money likely to be incurred on the opening of such offices in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) The information is as follows:

	Uttar Pradesh	Bihar
Post offices .	350	225
Long Distance Public Telephones/ Combined Offices (LDPTs/COs)	308	286

The proposed number of post offices may lead to creation of about 650 posts of Extra-departmental emloyees and 20 departmental staff in groups 'C' and 'D' in Uttar Pradesh, the corresponding estimate for Bihar being 450 and 10 respectively.

No separate staff is sanctioned for LDPTs. Those opened in post offices are operated by postal staff and those opened in groceries etc. are manned by the owners of these establishments.

(b) The information is as follows:

(Rs. lakhs)

	Uttar Pradesh	Bihar
Post Offices .	16.60	10.94
LDPTs/COs .	462.00	429.00

Electronic Telephone Exchanges

21. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of telephone exchanges where electronic system is likely to be introduced during the

current financial year, State-wise; and

(b) the total cost be incurred in the introduction of the electronic system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Petrol retail outlets in Tamil Nadu

22. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of petrol retail outlets available in Tamil Nadu at present;

(b) whether Government propose to open some more petrol retail outlets in the State;

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this regard so far; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) As on March 31, 1989, there were 1379 retail outlets in operation in Tamil Nadu.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In addition to the existing facilities, the oil industry has proposed to set up, under its Annual Marketing Plans upto 1987-88, 79 retail outlets in the State.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

Projects executed by NPCC

23. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state what are the details of the projects being executed by the National Project Construction Corporation in the country at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): A Statement giving the details of projects under execution by the National Projects Construction Corporation in the country is enclosed at Annexure [*See* Appendix CL, Annexure No. 2]

Representation from M/s. Mittal and Co. of Nepal for Devighat Hydro Electric Project

24. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from M/s. Mittal & Company of Nepal regarding payment of differences of labour wages for the work done by them at Devighat Hydro Electric Project; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b) M/s. Mittal & Co., Kathmandu (Nepal) were awarded the Contract for "Construction of Cross Drainage Works and Escape Channel" for the Devighat Hydroelectric Project, by the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC). The Contractor raised certain claims for reimbursement of increase in fair